



Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund & Vessel Turn-In Program

AWAF & VTIP

THE ABANDONED WATERCRAFT ABATEMENT FUND (AWAF) AND VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM (VTIP)

The AWAF and VTIP are grant reimbursement programs designed to remove, reduce and prevent abandoned recreational vessels and various marine debris. Administered by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), grants are awarded annually to qualified local public agencies statewide. The AWAF and VTIP, enacted in 1998 and 2010 respectively, have provided millions of dollars in grants to local agencies, and have enabled the removal of thousands of vessels and other debris.



What does the AWAF program do?

The AWAF does more than help agencies remove abandoned recreational vessels. It provides funds for the abatement, removal, storage and disposal of abandoned vessels, wrecked or dismantled vessels, parts, or any other partially submerged objects that pose a substantial hazard to navigation from navigable waterways or adjacent public property, or private property with the landowner's consent, per Harbors and Navigation Code (HNC) Section 525. Commercial vessels are not covered under either program.

Who is eligible for AWAF and VTIP grants?

Local public agencies that have jurisdiction over navigable waterways in California and meet the application assessment criteria are eligible.



Can private businesses apply for these grants?

While private businesses cannot directly receive grants under the AWAF and VTIP programs, they can work through a local public AWAF agency to remove abandoned vessels on their private property, or surrender vessels through the VTIP they have title to, per HNC 525.

The VTIP works to safeguard public and boater safety by preventing the risk of harmful water hazards.

What is VTIP?

The proactive VTIP grant program was created in 2010 as a solution to **prevent** abandoned recreational vessels before they happen. By providing an easy and free alternative for boat owners to surrender an unwanted vessel to a participating agency in lieu of abandonment, this program eliminates the expensive, difficult and time consuming adjudication and removal process abandoned vessels often require. The VTIP also works to safeguard public and boater safety by preventing the risk of harmful water hazards and provides for the protection of the environment by preventing discharges of oils, fuels, sewage and other toxic pollutants that may leak into our waterways and fragile habitats.

Deciding which vessels to accept through the VTIP is up to each participating agency. According to the California Harbors and Navigation Code (HNC) Section 526.1, the public agency determines, in its sole discretion, that the vessel is in danger of being abandoned, and therefore has a likelihood of causing environmental degradation or becoming a hazard to navigation.

How to apply:

Application information and forms can be found online at www.dbw.parks.ca.gov. Check the website for updated information before applying.

In evaluating a grant request, extra consideration will be given to applicant agencies that are proactive in keeping abandoned vessels off California's waters and that maintain a submerged navigational hazard abatement plan, per Harbors and Navigation Code (HNC) Section 525.

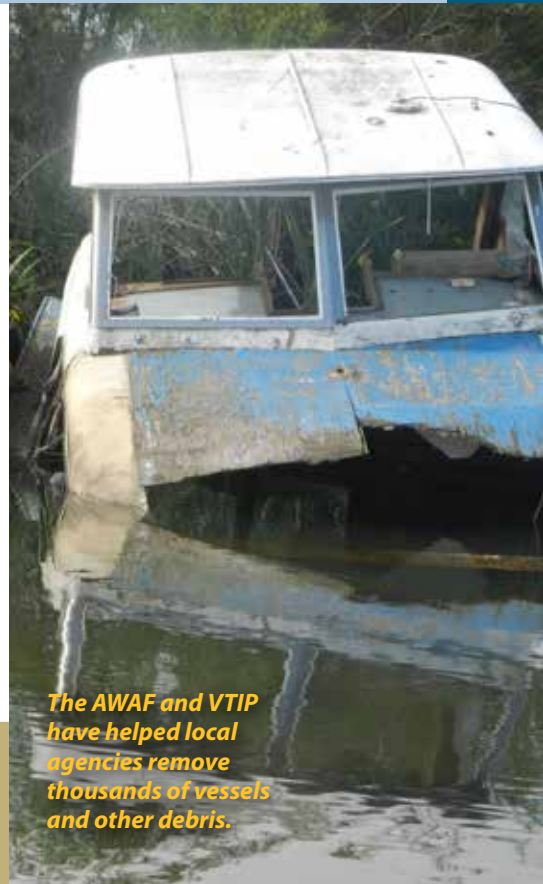
What does it cost?

AWAF and VTIP grant recipients are required to contribute 10% of the grant total. This may be met in cash or as an in-kind contribution and may include personnel hours.

Other Important Information:

- The grantee is responsible for all employees, contractors, sub-contractors and salvage companies having required insurance coverage.
- The grantee is responsible for any studies, permits or authorizations associated with treatment, removal, storage or any other handling of hazardous substances.
- The grantee must comply with California law with respect to titles and liens in conjunction with each vessel.
- Commercial vessels do not qualify.

More information is located online at www.dbw.parks.ca.gov, and in the HNC Sections 511-527.



The AWAF and VTIP have helped local agencies remove thousands of vessels and other debris.



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